

21 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary  
CIA Management Committee

FROM : Deputy Director for Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Proposal for an Office of Political Research

1. Action Requested: The purpose of this memorandum is to seek approval in principle for establishing an Office of Political Research (OPR).

2. Background: Our present work on political problems is fragmented and suffers from undue emphasis on current intelligence. (The Annex to this memorandum expands on this matter.) The Agency and the Intelligence Community have been criticized for the lack of effort and focus on sophisticated analysis and research in depth on political problems defined in a broad sense. Although one could argue about details, the basic thrust of these criticisms is in large measure correct and some concerted action is necessary to overcome these deficiencies. The proposed remedy is to consolidate and increase our effort on these problems by establishing an Office of Political Research (OPR) to conduct analysis and research in depth on:

- The decision-making processes of major countries of interest to the United States.
- The foreign policy, internal politics, and sociological aspects of these countries and their societies.
- The interaction of these factors with economic and military considerations in the formulation of major policies of these countries.
- The effect of these policies on important interests of the United States.

3. OPR would be staffed initially with those people from OCI, SRS, OBGI, ONE and other parts of the Agency who have the skills and interest to do in-depth analysis and research on political affairs in selected countries. Highly selective and careful recruiting of well-trained political scientists and area specialists would be used to build on this nucleus. As the capability of OPR grows, the size of OCI would decrease. OCI would focus its efforts on the production of current intelligence periodicals and short briefs for senior policy makers and would continue to perform all its other responsibilities except research in depth.

4. Where would the positions for OPR come from? Initially, some would come from OCI and SRS. Other positions could become available as a result of the elimination or reduction of the National Intelligence Survey Program.

5. I conceive of our movement toward a better organization of political research as a series of steps, the first of which is outlined above. There are several other questions about the reorganization of CIA's production components that must be answered:

- What should be done with the rest of OBGI if the NIS Program is eliminated? The remaining elements are the Map Library, the Geography Division, and the Cartography Division which together presently account for about  positions. There are several alternative arrangements and the one selected would depend on decisions made with respect to the reorganization of the OSR-OSI-FMSAC complex.
- How should biographic intelligence be handled? Clearly, the production of intelligence on the important people in the countries of major concern should be part of the mission of OPR. As OPR develops it could take on the production of detailed analytical reports on key foreign personalities. These reports would cover all aspects of the person involved including his relationships with other leaders

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and groups in his country, his political base and orientation, and perhaps those psychiatric and medical factors which bear on his performance as a leader and negotiator. Similar studies of elite groups would also be the responsibility of OPR. CRS would provide OPR with major contributions for these studies. In addition, CRS would retain its responsibilities for biographic collection requirements, the maintenance of biographic files.

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6. Recommendation: I recommend that a new Office of Political Research along the lines presented above be approved in principle. With this in hand, I will proceed to develop the specifics necessary for final approval through normal channels.

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EDWARD W. PROCTOR  
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:  
Annex

APPROVED: approved in principle

Date

DISAPPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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